

order. All Federal agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 27, 2006.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 27, 2006.

Remarks Following a Visit to a Hurricane Damaged Home in New Orleans, Louisiana

April 27, 2006

The President. Mrs. Williams has invited myself and the mayor and the Governor and Congressman into her home, which had been wiped out by the storm. And she went to Texas for a while, and she made it clear to me, she was glad to be out of Texas and back home. [*Laughter*]

But the amazing thing that's happened in her home is that there are people from across the country here who are helping to rebuild it. Catholic Charities, in this case, has provided the volunteers to help Ms. Williams reclaim her life. And so I'd like to first start by thanking the volunteers who are here in the home. I want to thank them for setting such a good example.

The man who's running the site here said that they need 2,500 more volunteers to come down to New Orleans to help people get back on their feet. If you're interested in helping the victims of Katrina, if you're interested in helping them get back on their feet, come down here and volunteer. A good place to start is in Catholic Charities. You can get right there on the web page; they'll find work for you. They'll give you a chance to contribute something to your country.

This is National Volunteer Week, and there are people like the good folks standing behind me here who are volunteering all across the country, making a difference. And for those of you who are volunteering, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making our society a better place.

I had a good visit with the Governor and the mayor as well. One of the things that we're working on is to make sure that we've learned the lessons from Katrina—we've learned lessons at the Federal level and State level and the local level. And we're now working closely together in preparation of the upcoming hurricane season. Secretary Chertoff was down here working with the Governor just to make sure that communications are clear, that equipment will be prepositioned, that the communications system, which failed last time, will be up and running should there be another catastrophic storm.

Listen, all of us in positions of responsibility appreciate those who are working to help us understand how to do our jobs better. And we pray there is no hurricane this coming year, but we are working together to make sure that if there is one, the response will be as efficient as possible.

I'm also talking to the Governor and the mayor about the reconstruction effort going on here in Louisiana. I applaud the Governor for putting forth a housing plan that she'll be submitting to the legislature soon. I call upon the Congress to make sure that the \$4.2 billion of CDBG money in the supplemental appropriations is held intact for the people of Louisiana. This money is going to be vital to making sure that the vision of the Governor and the mayor gets implemented as people are able to come back and start reclaiming their lives.

We talked about the levees, and I told the Governor and the mayor earlier on that we would work to have these levees pre-Katrina—better than pre-Katrina by June 1st. We are. There's still money in the supplemental that needs to be passed to make sure that we're able to fulfill our promise, to make sure that the levees, by September of '07, are even better than pre-Katrina. We've got a strategy to help the good folks down here rebuild. Part of it has to do with funding; part of it has to do with housing; and a lot of it has to do with encouraging volunteers from around the United States to come down and help people like Ms. Williams.

So we're proud to be here with you, Ms. Williams, and God bless you.

Ms. Williams. I'm proud to be here, Mr. President. And I won't ever—I can't ever forget you.

The President. You need to forget—remember those people a lot quicker than you're remembering me, because they're the ones who are going to help. She promised to cook me a meal—

Ms. Williams. Oh, yes—[laughter]—

The President. Once you get the house up and running.

Ms. Williams. —and I thank all the volunteers and everybody that is helping to make everything work.

The President. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. on Pauline Street. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana.

Remarks During a Visit to the Hands On Gulf Coast Civic Action Center in Biloxi, Mississippi

April 27, 2006

The President. I've come to the conclusion that I'm at a terrific place, where people are here bound by a common desire to show compassion to their neighbors in need. I really thank you. It's a compassion commune—[laughter]—where people are united by a singular purpose and setting a great example. Everybody—most people I talk to say, "Well, it makes me feel better." The truth of the matter is, when you volunteer to serve somebody in need, it does make you feel better.

So for all those in our country who are wondering whether or not they can make a difference in somebody's life, the answer is, all you have to do is look at these people here.

Audience member. Volunteer!

The President. All right. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m.

Remarks During a Visit to a BP Gas Station in Biloxi

April 27, 2006

Listen, we've got people like this that are working for a living, who are paying higher prices for their gasoline—it's like a tax. And I talked the other day about things we can do. The first thing is to make sure that nobody is getting cheated. One of the roles of the Federal Government is to make sure that you're taken care of.

We need more refining capacity. One of the reasons why you've got high prices is the demand is greater than supply. And when demand is greater than supply, the price goes up. They've got in Pascagoula a really fine refinery. I remember coming over with the Governor, the place was shut down—they got it up and running, and we hope we can put a law in place that will encourage them to expand refining capacity. We've got a problem because we're dependent on oil from overseas. And oil is the main reason—the price of oil is the main thing that drives the cost of gasoline.

One of the things we've got to do is make these trucks run on ethanol, and batteries that won't require gasoline. That's what the future is going to be.

Congress is debating some other ideas. And one idea is to give me the capacity to raise CAFE standards on automobiles. I encourage them to give me that authority. It's an authority that I'd use for light trucks. And I intend to use it wisely, if Congress would give me that authority.

Again, I want to thank you for letting me come by and say hello. It seems like everybody is getting better down here. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi.

Statement on the Framework Agreement With Canada on Softwood Lumber Trade

April 27, 2006

I am pleased that the United States and Canada concluded a framework agreement